

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMATION

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November 16, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*
SUBJECT: North Vietnam Has Problems Too

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The editorial surprisingly revealed that there had been a "famine" in North Vietnam early this year. (A North Vietnamese civilian, who defected across the DMZ this summer, stated there had been starvation in the heart of North Vietnam's rice bowl.) The most significant feature of the editorial, however, concerns opposition by "a number of cadres, Party members and people" to government controls and discipline and to continuing the war in the South. Hoc Tap charges that all this has produced a "current of evil thoughts" which has even appeared in the press, literature and arts and which is "very dangerous because it focuses on basic Party policy. This remarkable accusation indicates troublesome indiscipline within the Party hierarchy responsible, among other things, for controlling the media and the arts.

editorial specifically denounces Party members, cadres and people for "ignoring the necessity to resort to revolutionary violence and revolutionary war to liberate the nation"; moreover, they are accused of opposing the Party's "close control" designed to curb larceny, corruption and other "bourgeois" phenomena. The editorial is replete with references to "hostile tendencies, bad phenomena, opportunism, lack of courage and confidence, pessimism, and 'evil thoughts' among those criticized.

There is little danger of the regime's losing control of the situation, it has its hands full at home. These domestic problems and hope of deterioration of the GVN's military, economic and political strength will convince Hanoi that this dry season is not the time for a 1972-type

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Winston Lord per Peter Rodman - receipt #4077 - (mjt) 12:15pm